

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) An intravascular catheter comprising an elongate shaft having a reinforcement layer comprising a tubular braid having a first helical member interwoven with a second helical member forming a plurality of crossover points and a plurality of axial members disposed between the first helical member and the second helical member for the entire length of the axial member at each of the plurality of crossover points.

17. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the axial members are uniformly spaced about the circumference of the shaft.

18. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 17, wherein four axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 90° about the circumference of the shaft.

19. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 17, wherein eight axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 45° about the circumference of the shaft.

20. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the elongate shaft includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, and wherein the distal shaft portion has fewer axial members than the proximal shaft portion.

21. (cancelled)

22. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the first and second helical members each comprise polymeric material.

23. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 22, wherein the first and second helical members each comprise a plurality of monofilaments.

24. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein the axial members each comprise a polymeric material.

25. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 24, wherein the axial members each comprise a plurality of polymeric monofilaments.

26. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 25, wherein the monofilaments are held together statically.

27. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 26, wherein the monofilaments comprise LCP.

28. (original) An intravascular catheter as in claim 27, wherein the monofilaments are arranged side-by-side to collectively define a flat ribbon.

29. (currently amended) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter, the method comprising the steps of:

braiding a first helical member and a second helical member about a carrier forming a plurality of crossover points such that a plurality of axial members are disposed between the first and second helical members ~~for the entire length of the axial member~~ at each of the plurality of crossover points.

30. (original) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter as in claim 29, wherein the axial members are uniformly spaced about the circumference of the shaft.

31. (original) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter as in claim 30, wherein four axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 90° about the circumference of the shaft.

32. (currently amended) A method of making a portion of a shaft of an intravascular catheter as in claim 30, wherein eight axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 45° about the circumference of the shaft.

33. (new) An intravascular catheter comprising an elongate shaft having a reinforcement layer comprising a tubular braid having a first helical member interwoven with a second helical member forming a plurality of crossover points and one or more axially extending members disposed between the first helical member and the second helical member so that the reinforcement layer is free of crossover points having the first helical member and the second helical member on the same side of the one or more axially extending member.

34. (new) An intravascular catheter as in claim 33, wherein the reinforcement layer is free of radial protrusions caused by the one or more axial members.

35. (new) An intravascular catheter as in claim 33, wherein at each crossover point one of the helical members passes over a given axial member while the other helical member passes under that axial member.

36. (new) An intravascular catheter as in claim 16, wherein at each crossover point one of the helical members passes over a given axial member while the other helical member passes under that axial member.